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MANCHESTER, N.H. MAYOR
Valedictory, 1869

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VALEDICTORY
OF THE
HON. JAMES A. WESTON,
MAYOR,
TO
The City Council of Manchester,
DELIVERED
BEFORE THE TWO BRANCHES IN CONVENTION, JANUARY, 1869.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.



MANCHESTER, N. H.:

PRINTED BY CHARLES F. LIVINGSTON.

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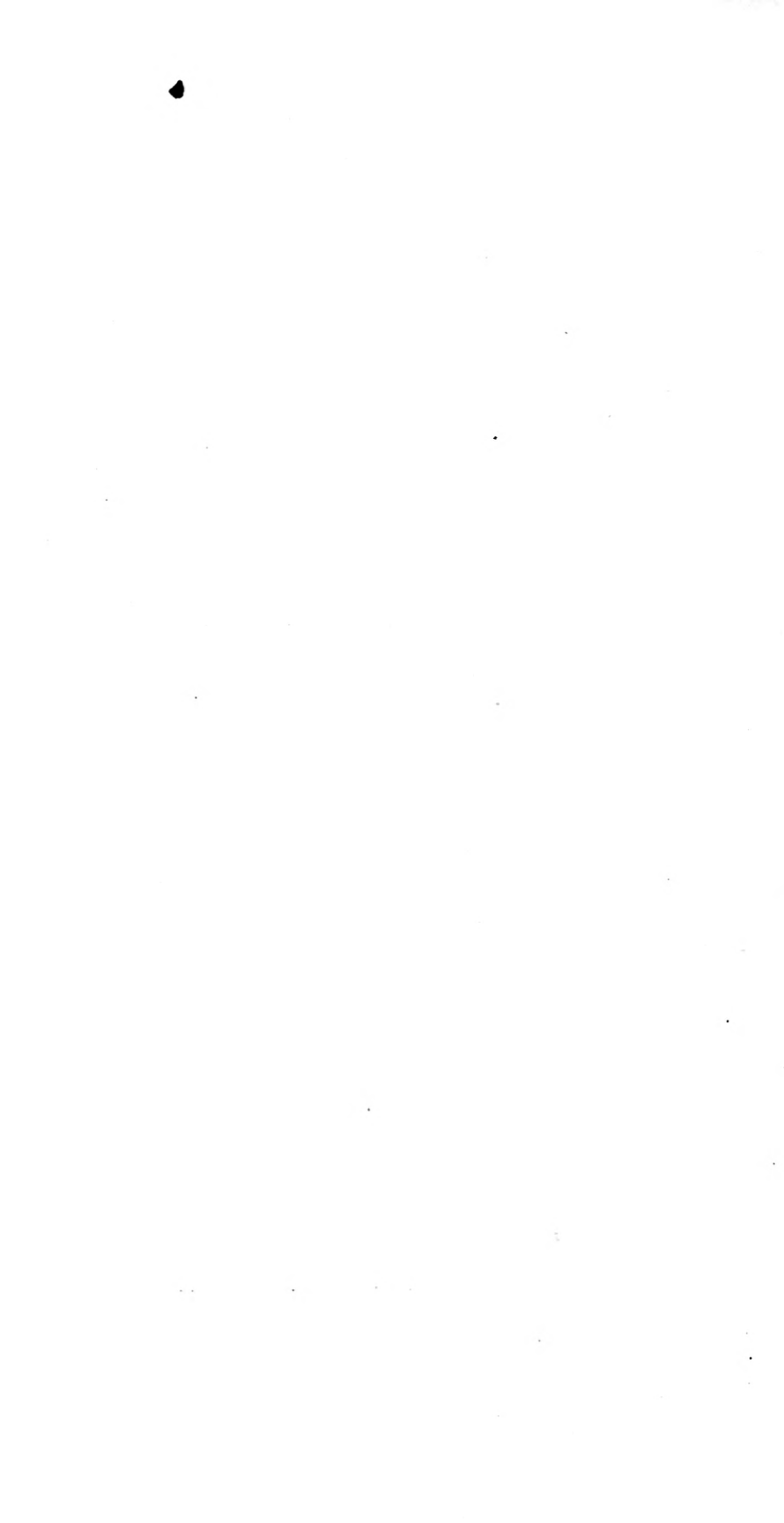


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CITY OF MANCHESTER.

The Mayor's Valedictory Address.

ORDERED, That three hundred copies of the Valedictory Address of Hon. JAMES A. WESTON, Mayor, delivered this day, before the two branches of the City Council in convention, be printed for the use of the City Council, and that his Honor the Mayor be requested to furnish a copy to be printed in the Annual Reports.

In Convention of the City Council.

Read and passed.

JOSEPH E. BENNETT, CITY CLERK.

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ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CITY COUNCIL :

The period for which we assumed the trusts imposed upon us one year ago being about to close, it seems eminently proper, and not without precedent, that I should present a brief review of our official acts, setting forth what has been accomplished within the year, with a statement of the condition of the city affairs, as the management thereof is relinquished to others. Our successors, who are to carry forward the enterprises and improvements now in progress, are fairly entitled to this information ; and it is a matter of justice to us, as well as to our fellow citizens generally, that such a statement should be made.

The propriety and even importance of this course cannot fail to commend it to every business man ; and I can but hope that it will be considered the duty of each succeeding city council, to transmit to its successors an explicit account of the condition of affairs at the expiration of its term of office.

FINANCE.

On the first day of January, 1868, the net indebtedness of the city as stated in my inaugural address, from information furnished by the City Treasurer, was \$393,805 50

The following statement obtained from the same source, and made up on the same basis, shows the net indebtedness of the city, January 1, 1869, 369,112 24

Being a decrease or reduction of the debt during the year, of \$24,693 26

The statement from the Treasurer's books is as follows:

Amount of funded debt, January 1, 1868, \$351,900 00

Amount of temporary loan, January 1,

1868, \$35,230 00

Amount of increase during the year, . . . 2,071 00

Present amount of temporary loan 37,301 00

Estimated amount of interest now due, \$10,000 00

Unpaid bills now due 15,156 08

25,156 08

Total debt and interest January 1, 1869, \$414,357 08

Deduct amount of cash on hand, . . . \$42,794 85

Deduct note due on Barrett place 75 00

Deduct notes due for lots sold from City

Farm, 2,375 49

Amounting to

 \$45,245 34

Leaving the net indebtedness, January 1, 1869, . . \$369,111 74

Included in the foregoing statement is the sum of \$5,468.43, paid for furnishing and fitting up the court house and lot, which was authorized to be met by loan; but was taken from the tax receipts. In all, the sum of \$15,994.16 has been paid from tax receipts, on account of the court house, above the sum raised by loan, rather than hire money, while sufficient funds were remaining in the treasury. And notwithstanding this, there is now in the city treasury, the sum of \$42,794.85, which is a larger cash balance than was ever before on hand at the close of any municipal year.

No bills have been contracted for our successors to provide for, and efforts having been made by advertising in the daily papers and otherwise, to have every outstanding claim presented for payment at the close of the year, it is confidently believed that the demands against the city are adjusted as fully as it is practicable to do, at any given time.

The report of the joint standing committee on finance will reveal the gratifying fact that there is not a single account overdrawn, while many of them will show large unexpended balances.

SEWERS AND DRAINS.

As a part of a systematic plan of sewerage recommended in Slade's report, the proposed new sewer in Elm street has been commenced, and extended from Central to Merrimack street, a distance of about five hundred feet. This sewer is of brick, three feet high by two feet wide in the clear, and laid at such a grade as will, in connection with the old sewer, furnish ample means of drainage for the surface water, as well as for sink drains and cellars.

A cement sewer has also been laid, which discharges into this new sewer, and extends from Merrimack to Spring street, through the back street west of Elm street, a distance of about sixteen hundred feet. Several other sewers of less magnitude have been constructed in various parts of the city.

The claims which were found hanging over the city for damage to property in consequence of alleged defects and obstructions in the stone culvert leading from Hanover to Merrimack squares, induced a thorough examination into the case. The result was a compromise between the parties, by which those who were damaged relinquished one third part of their claims on the condition that the city would enlarge and repair the culvert agreeably to certain stipulations. This has been accomplished to the

satisfaction of all concerned. The claims have all been adjusted and paid, and any liability of the city on account of any further damage arising from a like cause, has ceased beyond question.

Much inconvenience having arisen, and unnecessary expense incurred from a want of knowledge as to the location, capacity, &c., of existing sewers, a survey has been made, and a plan is in progress which is designed to furnish all the desired information.

HIGHWAYS.

The new highways constructed during the current year are as follows: The extension of Union street, north; the extension of Merrimack street from Hall street to its intersection with Hanover street; Willow and Young streets, near the jail; Granite street from Canal to Elm street, and Bridge street from Hall street through the city farm to the Mammoth road. In consequence of the unfavorable weather in the fall, the work on Nashua, Ash, and Walnut streets was not quite completed. Some additional work will also be necessary on Bridge street the coming season.

The sidewalk on the north side of Hanover street has been widened four feet, from Elm east back street to Union street, and a walk of concrete or brick laid the entire distance at the expense of the city. The sidewalk

on the south side of Hanover square has also been widened and a concrete pavement laid to make it correspond with that below. One half the expense of the last named walk, exclusive of grading, was contributed by residents in that vicinity. The total expense incurred in the construction of the streets and walks above named, is about \$4000. The plan of laying concrete walks in the commons, has been inaugurated by the construction of two walks in Concord square.

Early in the season Granite bridge was thoroughly replanked, and otherwise repaired, and painted. The plank used were of oak, four and a half inches thick; and, although the first cost of this material was considerably more than other kinds would have been, it is believed the line of true economy was adopted.

CITY FARM.

A complete survey and plan of the city farm has been made, and the westerly portion of the same divided into house lots, by projecting the necessary streets. Seven of these lots have already been sold and conveyed, at prices fixed by your committee, amounting to the sum of \$3,167.34. About seventeen acres in all have been offered for sale, which, at the prices agreed upon, will amount to about \$11,000. The opening of Bridge

street was mainly for the purpose of bringing these lands into the market.

RESERVOIRS.

The construction of two reservoirs in sections of the city, destitute of these facilities for the extinguishment of fires, has contributed much to the safety of property in the neighborhood of their location. Both of them are built entirely of stone, in the most durable manner. The one on Wilson street, in Janesville, is 27x6x6 feet, in the clear, and being situated on a never failing brook is always full of water. The other, situated on Merrimack street near Hall street, is in the clear, 40x6x6 feet, which it is thought will furnish a supply of water adequate to any demand likely to occur in that locality.

LIBRARY BUILDING.

The city council having made an appropriation towards the erection of a library building, a committee was appointed sometime in the summer months, with authority to procure plans, specifications and estimates of such a building as in their judgment would meet the present and prospective requirements of the city, and report to the city council. Subsequently, the committee were authorized to adopt such a plan as they deemed advisable, and

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to proceed with the work so far as to lay the foundation. After a careful consideration of the whole matter, a plan was agreed upon with much unanimity. The building proposed is in the gothic style of architecture, 49x90 feet, with a tower at the southwest corner. It has a high-posted basement, to be used for miscellaneous purposes, and one principal story, containing a waiting room, librarian's rooms, and a library room of sufficient size to accommodate 44,000 volumes. It is proposed to locate the building on the lot of land immediately south of Franklin street church, having a frontage on Franklin street of 145 feet. The south side of the lot is to be on a line with the passage way south of the Methodist church, the intention being to make a public avenue from Elm street to Franklin street, for foot passengers through this walk.

This lot is generously donated by the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, and the deed is ready to be delivered as soon as the aforesaid avenue can be laid out as a public way. Owing to unavoidable delays arising from various causes, the committee were unable to make any progress with the foundations, but the preliminaries are so far advanced, that the work may be commenced early the coming season.

POLICE STATION.

Agreeably to the recommendation contained in my inaugural address, some progress has been made with a view to procure better accommodations for the police department. An architect, Mr. G. W. STEVENS, has been employed, who has presented a plan for an addition to, or an extension of the City Hall building at the southwest corner. It is proposed to make the structure 34x40 feet, one story high, with a basement all finished in the same style of architecture as the main building, and of the same kind of materials. It is to contain rooms for the marshal, and a watch room with the necessary conveniences; also twenty cells, ten in the basement and ten in the principal story.

CONCLUSION.

I have thus adverted to some of the principal topics relating to our public affairs, which have been the subject of our deliberations during the past year. Whatever success has resulted from our labors, has in a large degree been owing to your wisdom, fidelity and cheerful co-operation. As a reward for your services you have the approbation of your fellow citizens, and that which is higher and better than all, the consciousness of having honestly endeavored to perform your duty.

The prosperity which has marked the progress of our city throughout the year, may well awaken our warmest gratitude to an ever kind and watchful Providence. Peace and public order have been maintained to a high degree ; no pestilence which walketh in darkness has been suffered to come within our borders ; the republic has made rapid progress in recovering from the effects of the dreadful calamities incident to the long and bloody war ; public confidence has been greatly restored, the spirit of enterprise in our people has been stimulated, the busy hum of industry has been heard, labor has been rewarded, and our city is once more entering upon a career of prosperity with renewed vigor.

GENTLEMEN : Before we separate, allow me to extend to you individually my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the courtesy and kindness which has ever characterized your conduct in all relations with me. Let me assure you that I shall never cease to retain pleasing and grateful recollections of the many manifestations of your generosity and personal regard ; and that wherever your lot may be cast I shall always cherish an ardent wish for your future success and happiness.

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